

GENERAL NOTES.

The Double-Crested Cormorant near Springfield, Mass.—A male Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax dilophus*) was taken at Long meadow, four miles from here, May 6, 1887, in full breeding plumage. I have not known of one in this vicinity at this season of the year before, and only twice before in the autumn.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

The Florida Gallinule in Nova Scotia.—Mr. Watson Bishop, of Kentville, has in his collection a Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) which was taken near the Cornwallis River, N. S., on September 20, 1886, by Mr. E. F. L. Jenner. Mr. J. M. Jones reports that three other examples of this species have been taken in that Province.—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*

The Middletown, Conn., Glossy Ibis of 1850.—In reference to the Middletown specimen noticed by Mr. Browne in his paper on the 'New England Glossy Ibises' (*Auk*, April, 1887), I would say that the original announcement by Dr. Barratt appeared in the Middletown, Conn., 'Sentinel and Witness' for Tuesday evening, May 21, 1850 (Vol. XXVIII. No. 1430), and is as follows :

“[For the Sentinel and Witness.]

“BLACK EGYPTIAN IBIS (A RARE BIRD).

“CALLED ALSO GLOSSY IBIS, *Ibis falcinella*.

“One of these rare birds, *Ibis falcinella*, was shot at Middletown, on the banks of the Connecticut, May 9th, time of a high flood. It is a male in full plumage. Its length is twenty-eight inches,* and stands eighteen inches high, bill five inches long, which is slender and curved. It has been carefully preserved, and is now in the cabinet of Dr. J. Barratt.

“By the papers we learn that a similar bird was shot at Freshpond, near Cambridge, Mass., on the 8th inst., and has been presented to the Harvard Cabinet of Natural History.

“It is highly probable that these birds belonged to the same flock, and may have been driven to the south by the late storms, after crossing Behring's straits — having left the valley of the Nile in March, as we suppose.

“The *Ibis falcinella* is very rarely seen in the United States. This is the first that has come to our notice on the Connecticut, and has not been known in this country many years.

“The Prince of Musignano was the first to show that the bird called *Tantalus Mexicanus* by Mr. Ord (the continuator of Wilson's Ornithology), was the *Ibis falcinella* of Europe, a bird common in Egypt.

*NOTE.—Mr. Nuttall says length 23 inches,—that, I apprehend, is a typographical error for 28. Turton in Brit. Fauna, p. 55, says length 2 ft. 6; extent of wings, 3 ft. 2; weight, 18 ounces.”

“Mr. Nuttall in vol. 2, p. 89, of his highly interesting work on American Birds, has given a full history of this species of Ibis, with a figure shewing the Pyramids in the background. To this work we refer the reader (who has access to it). Mr. N. says, ‘it is a periodical visitor of Egypt, where, in common with the Sacred Ibis, it was revered and embalmed in the vast catacombs of Saccara and Memphis. It arrives in that country in October, and leaves it in the month of March. They spread themselves into Russia, Siberia, Tartary, Denmark, occasionally in Sweden, and perhaps Lapland, remaining in those countries until driven to migrate by the inclemency of approaching winter, at which period they appear to arrive in Africa and Asia. It is a still more rare and accidental visitor to the United States.’

“‘So highly was it honored, that the Ibis became the characteristic hieroglyphic of the country; repeated upon all their monuments, obelisks and national statutes. The abundance of their remains in the catacombs proves indeed the familiarity which the species had with the indulgent inhabitants of its favorite country. Diodorus Siculus says these birds advanced without fear into the midst of the cities. Strabo relates, they filled the streets and lanes of Alexandria to such a degree as to become troublesome and importunate. The Ibis is now no longer venerated in Egypt, and is commonly shot and ensnared for food. The markets of the sea coast are now abundantly supplied with them and a white species as game—both of which are ignominiously exposed for sale deprived of their heads, a spectacle from which the ancient Egyptians would have recoiled with horror.’

“The person who shot the Ibis at this place remarked, ‘how tame it was.’ This confidence and easy familiarity with man would render it entirely unfit for a residence in New England, where there is such a murderous propensity to shoot the feathered race.

“J. BARRATT.

“*Middletown, Ct., May 16, 1850.*”

The above account was reprinted in the ‘Fourth Annual Report of the Regents of the University on the Condition of the [New York] State Cabinet of Natural History for the year 1850’ (1851), pp. 113-115.

The Regents add: ‘A bird of the same species, shot by Mr. Hurst, on Grand Island, in the Niagara River, in August, 1844, is now in the State Cabinet. See Third Annual Report, p. 22.’

Dr. Barratt’s specimen is in good condition in the Museum at Wesleyan University, Middletown.—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

Geococcyx californianus—A Correction.—The writer published a memoir entitled ‘Contributions to the Anatomy of *Geococcyx Californianus*,’ which was read Nov. 16, 1886, and appeared in the ‘Proceedings’ of the Zoölogical Society of London on April 1, 1887. He finds that the figures of the muscles of the pelvic limb of the bird (pl. xlv and xlvi) are somewhat reduced, whereas in the ‘Explanation of Plates’ it states that these parts are figured “life size.” This error arose from the fact that the publishers